

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23081 301654Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /138 W

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R 301533Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2850

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 23081

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, FR, GR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS SALE POLICY TO GREECE

1. REPLYING TO QUESTION BY A COMMUNIST DEPUTY ASKED WHETHER FRANCE INTENDED TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT STATED IN JOURNAL OFFICIAL ON AUGUST 25 THAT IT WAS INEXACT TO SAY THAT GOF PLANNED TO INCREASE ITS AID TO GREECE. GREECE, HE STATED, DID NOT BENEFIT FROM ANY PARTICULAR FRENCH AID, FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE, AND THUS THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF INCREASING AID WHICH DID NOT EXIST. COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES WERE RULED BY MARKET FORCES AND THE ROLE OF CERTAIN FRENCH COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREECE HAD NO OTHER MOTIVE THAN THE ECONOMIC ONE. AS FAR AS ARMS SALES WERE CONCERNED, THEY WERE INSIGNIFICANT IN THE LAST YEAR. IN CONCLUSION, HE NOTED, THAT FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS GREECE IS INSPIRED BY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES AND IS FOUNDED ON PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE WHICH IS APPLIED BY FRANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 23081 301654Z

2. COMMENT: GOF IS FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED IN THE PRESS AND

IN PARLIAMENT ON ITS RELATIONS WITH MORE AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS
OF SOUTHERN EUROPE. FRENCH OFFICIALS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES
INVARIABLY INSIST ON PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. BY TURNING OFFICIAL BLIND EYE TO POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH IT
DOES NOT FIND PALATABLE, IT IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN THOSE COMMERCIAL
RELATIONSHIPS AND INVESTMENTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO FRENCH
ECONOMY.

DECON 12/31/74.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: MASS, FR, GR, (JOBERT, MICHEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005